

COMMON COUNCIL
CAL BRAND MEETING ROOM
CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

President Pro Tem Tim Shuffett called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

I. Meeting Called to Order

- A. Opening Prayer was given by Vicar Steve Hackman with St. Peter's Lutheran Church.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Shuffett.
- C. Roll Call was taken. Dascal Bunch, Ryan Brand, Frank Jerome, Frank Miller, Tim Shuffett, Kenneth Whipker, and James Lienhoop were present. Mayor Brown was absent.
- D. Councilor Bunch made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on August 18, 2015 as presented. Councilor Whipker seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

II. Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action

- A. None

III. New Business Requiring Council Action

- A. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2015, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016." Matt Caldwell, Director of Finance and Operations, presented this ordinance summarizing the changes from the 2015 budget. He explained the salary ordinance includes a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all employees. Bryan Burton, Director City Garage, addressed the need for a full-time second shift transit mechanic. Kevin Konetzka and Nichol Birdwell-Goodin with Animal Care Services presented a power point presentation providing details of why an additional position for a full-time field officer is necessary. Councilor Whipker asked if part-time funds could be decreased if a new field officer was added. Nichol stated the part-time employees have been very helpful and offers flexibility for the center. Councilor Shuffett mentioned with this new position they would be increasing their department almost 44% since 2011. Discussion followed. Councilor Shuffett asked about the Parks and Recreation Department changes. Jeff Logston, City Attorney and Executive Director of Administration, explained the Parks Department is making preparations to take over management of the city golf courses when the current contract expires in October and additional staffing may be necessary. Jeff stated the expense of those positions would be absorbed by the Parks non-reverting fund. Councilor Shuffett opened the meeting for public comment. Tamara Kiel, 1045 Tipton Lane, President of Animal Care Services Commission, implored Council Members to pass the budget as presented in regard to approval of the new field officer at Animal Care Services, stating it is hugely needed. Maddie Holland agreed with Tamara, and stated they do wonderful work and need the help. Councilor

Shuffett closed the meeting for public comment. Councilors Jerome and Whipker are in favor of an additional staff member at Animal Care Services. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay.

- B. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO.____, 2015, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR 2016." Matt Caldwell presented this ordinance explaining this is for elected officials: Mayor, Clerk Treasurer and City Council which also includes a 2% COLA. Councilor Jerome asked about merit increases that were discussed last year during the budget process and how many employees did not receive the merit increases. Jeff Logston did not have that number available but offered to provide the information to Council. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Miller asked if the elected officials' salaries had to be reviewed every year. Jeff Logston explained that state law requires an ordinance be adopted every year. Discussion followed. Lisa Deaton asked if the ordinance had to be increased and the answer was no. Councilor Brand made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay.
- C. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO.____, 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COLUMBUS CROSSING PRELIMINARY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) PLAN WITH REGARD TO SIGNS AND LAND USES." Jeff Bergman, Director of Planning Department, presented this ordinance. He explained the Columbus Plan Commission suggested changes to the Columbus Crossing Preliminary PUD (Planned Unit Development) sign regulations. Jeff stated the Commission's recommendation is to replace the current very specific sign standards with Plan Commission discretion based on the sign regulations of the CR (Commercial: Regional Center) zoning district as a guideline. Jeff briefly discussed the decision criteria. He stated the Plan Commission had a favorable recommendation with seven (7) in favor and two (2) opposed. Councilor Miller commented that he is not in favor of the amendments and feels much effort went into the sign standards setting up the PUD. He has received feedback against the 90 foot signs. Councilor Brand is in favor of the Plan Commission having control over signs. Councilor Jerome believes it's a matter of fairness and businesses should have similar rules. Councilor Shuffett stated the recommendations allow development in the area and create more opportunities. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay.
- D. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO.____, 2015, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 9.24, DISCRIMINATION GENERALLY AND CHAPTER 9.28, HOUSING DISCRIMINATION OF THE COLUMBUS CITY CODE." Aida Ramirez, Director of Human Rights, introduced Commissioners John Stroh and Ian Kohen. Aida explained the Columbus Human Rights Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Columbus City Council an amendment to Chapter 9.24, Discrimination Generally and Chapter 9.28, Housing Discrimination of the Columbus Municipal Code. She stated the recommendation includes the addition of verbiage for protected classes on the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. The amendment also identifies protections for individuals who are 40 years of age and older. Aida discussed details of the


proposed changes and addressed questions that have been brought up since the last Council meeting. Discussion followed. Councilor Shuffett opened the meeting for public comment. Dana Ray Harrison, 1613 Pearl, identified herself as a transgendered female, stating she has been refused medical services and job loss because of transgender, and is in favor of the amendments. Mark Levett, 2900 Washington Street, spoke on behalf of Cummins Inc. He explained Cummins is the largest employer in Columbus and they are in a global environment. The Cummins history promotes diversity and that diversity leads to inclusion of all people. Mark Osowick, with Cummins, Inc., stated Cummins must be able to attract and retain the best talent in the world and supports all forms of diversity. They want employees to feel safe, welcome, and fully included in the organization and community, and would encourage council to approve the ordinance. Rick Colglazier, who has a business here in town, read a statement from his friend Eric Redford, summarizing that as a Christian we are to love one another and when discrimination is felt to occur, we have sufficient layers of organizations, councils and commissions to address those issues. Chuck Doup, 3251 Fairlawn Drive, belongs to the profession of realtors and they do not discriminate. He said his Councilman stated at the last meeting that he has been in favor of this ordinance for four years, but feels the Councilman should be coming to the meetings with an open mind. Chuck believes this ordinance should not be passed. Sheryl Nulph, 1027 Franklin Street, read a prepared statement and spoke in favor of the amendment. John Racanelli, 6067 Boulder Court, stated as a Catholic Christian he believes everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, but is concerned that Catholic schools may be forced to retain someone who openly contradicts the beliefs of his church. Lawrence Jackman, 775 East Oak Manor, spoke in favor of the amended ordinance and stated we are a community who should embrace our brothers and sisters no matter who they are and claim them as our own. Drew Robertson, 12880 West Sawmill Road, spoke about the laws of religious discrimination. Ryan Lauer, 742 Chestnut Street, expressed his opposition and asked the Council to consider tabling the ordinance. Justin Hohn, 2052 Iroquois Trail, asked that Council not include veteran status in this ordinance, because he and other veterans fought for the right for people to be wrong. Robert Hurt, 550 W, commented that he stands on the word of God, stating Council should seek God for guidance and the right direction. Jackie Patterson, an employee at Cummins and stated she is transitioning to be her true self. Jackie feels safe here and hopes that this ordinance passes. Ashton Kelsey, 13301 E Steven Drive, spoke in favor of the proposed amendments. Carla Barrett, 13301 E Steven Drive, stated Council needs to make sure the people in this community are protected. David Kadlec, 7130 S 650 W, commented this is an opportunity to move us toward greater justice. Deborah Goforth, 775 East Oak Manor, explained this is the right thing to do, protect people's rights. Lisa Deaton, Wolfcreek Road, hopes this purpose would unify the community and suggested tabling this to educate and better inform the public. Julia Stumpff, 3610 31st Street, stated adding language to the ordinance is the right thing to do. Randall Burton, 2584 Lafayette Avenue, asked the Council to consider tabling the ordinance in order to process a bit longer. Sameer Samudra, 3144 Red Fox Trail, married with husband and is openly gay. He considers this amendment as a support of tomorrow's future of Columbus. Josh Hershberger, 201 E Main Street, Madison, is a constitutional attorney and has some concerns about the proposed ordinance. Michael Greven, 12870 W 525 W, read a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer and believes it's time for protections for LGBT. Jennifer Langevin, 4610 Woodcrest Drive, asked the Council to move forward on this action. Maddie Halloran, 19945 E 410, Hope, suggested going forward to give equal protection to all people. Mike Mullett, 723 Lafayette Street, commented

Columbus is different by design and is struggling to be diverse and inclusive, which is why this is so important. Keith Weedman, 3451 E 850 S, applauded the Human Rights Commission for bringing this issue before the City Council, and supports the passage of the ordinance. Amanda Rogo, 3345 Westenedge Drive, supports this ordinance. Lanny Lawler, 1341 Crescent Drive, urged the Council to pass this ordinance and expand freedom to the citizens of the United States, and the heritage and tradition of our country and protect the freedom for all. Eric Miller, attorney in Indianapolis and founder of Advance America, offered observations for the Council. He stated words matter, laws matter, and no documentation of any issues have been presented. The language in the ordinance is vague and unclear. He suggested tabling or defeating for all Columbus residents. Mary Kohen, 583 N Hickory Hills, spoke in favor of this amendment, it's a civil right. Don Strietelmeier, 9390 E 400 N, Hope, spoke against the amendment, stating the bible is clear when it comes to this issue. Leigh Jackman-Wheitner, 6054 E Meadow Ridge Road, stated this is not a new issue as it has been discussed by the Human Rights Commission for approximately 15 years. She is in favor of passing the amendment. Councilor Shuffett closed the public portion of the meeting. John Stroh said the language that was being criticized has been in the ordinance for over 50 years and the people in this community have not misused that language, have not applied it inappropriately, and have not had a problem with what it means or what it says. Aida explained they are not trying to prevent discrimination, but are trying to enforce laws and rules. Discussion followed. Ian Kohen stated that in 2000 this was discussed and a new discussion group was established in 2005, the subject has been discussed for 15 years. Councilor Lienhoop made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Councilor Whipker made a motion to amend the ordinance to include veteran status. Councilor Jerome seconded the motion. Motion to amend passed by a unanimous vote. Councilor Jerome made a motion to approve the amended ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Whipker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Other Business

- A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports - None
- B. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 6:00 p.m. in City Hall**. Councilor Shuffett stated a **Special Joint Redevelopment / City Council** meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 6:00 in City Hall**.
- C. Councilor Whipker made a motion for adjournment. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:58 P.M


Presiding Officer

Attest: 
Clerk Treasurer of City of Columbus